



## News Release

February 26, 2009

### Grants Help Children Connect to Families

**Victoria** – Five organizations have been awarded grants totaling \$77,000 from the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund. Trust Fund Committee co-chairs Geord Holland and Sandra Scarth announced for the fifth year in a row distribution of funds to successful applicants for a variety of initiatives.

“Only one in ten children in care in BC will find a family this year,” said Holland. “There are over 1300 waiting children and thousands in care who seek connections where adoption may not be a realistic option. These grants help children and youth make permanent connections, and support many groups which work tirelessly for these kids every day.”

The grants will be used to support an international conference on foster parenting, research the experiences of youth to develop programs that work for them, build local networks for youth in care and more. The grants are in addition to fifteen mini-grants of \$1500 each awarded in 2008 across the Province.

Established by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development in 2003, the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund supports groups which help children and youth find and maintain lifelong connections through adoption or alternative avenues of permanence. A total of \$345,500 has been awarded from this fund since its inception.

Grants are awarded from the interest earned on \$3 million in permanent funds administered by the Victoria Foundation. The Adoption Council of Canada is the secretariat to the fund. “We’re pleased to be supporting this fund and the children and youth served by the recipients of the grants,” said Victoria Foundation CEO Sandra Richardson.

For information on adoption and the BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund, including application information, visit their new web site at [www.connectingforlife.ca](http://www.connectingforlife.ca). Applications are now being accepted for mini-grants until May 29, 2009.

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